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EC-19

DDT for CONTROL of WIREWORMS in IRRIGATED LANDS



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Both DDT and ethylene dibromide will control wireworms in irrigated areas of the West Coast States. DDT is simpler to apply, longer lasting, and cheaper than ethylene dibromide, but it acts more slowly. If you do not need immediate control you will want to use DDT. It may not kill the larger wireworms in your field for several weeks or months. DDT will continue for several years to kill new-brood wireworms as they hatch and thereby prevent reinfestation.

You can apply DDT either in a spray or in a dust, with any convenient equipment. Use enough insecticide to give 10 pounds of technical DDT per acre and mix it thoroughly with the soil to a depth of 6 to 9 inches.

If you wish to use a spray, purchase a 50-percent DDT wettable powder from your dealer. Mix 20 pounds of this powder with 100 gallons of water and apply at the rate of 100 gallons per acre.

You can obtain dusts containing various percentages of DDT. Apply the following quantities:

<u>Percent DDT</u>	<u>Pounds per acre</u>
50	20
20	50
10	100
5	200

Apply DDT at any time when the ground is being thoroughly worked. This may be either in the fall or before planting in the spring or summer. The soil should be in good condition for working--neither too wet nor too dry.

Immediately after applying DDT mix it with the soil. Use a double-disk harrow, pulled by a good-sized tractor. A spring-tooth harrow will not give a good deep mix. Disk first, then plow, and disk again. You can save labor if you apply the DDT before disking or plowing under the residue from the preceding crop.

One treatment is usually effective for at least 5 years. Do not treat again until you find wireworms in the soil. It is seldom necessary to re-treat within 3 years.

WARNING. --DDT is a poison, but when used as recommended it will not injure man or animals or vegetation. Avoid inhaling the dust or spray. Keep your hands away from your mouth and wash them thoroughly before eating. Label DDT containers clearly. Store them away from food products, and out of reach of children and animals.

The use of ethylene dibromide as described in EC-6, Control of Wireworms in Irrigated Lands with Ethylene Dibromide is still recommended for control of wireworms, if the infestation must be destroyed immediately. Follow with DDT within a year.

Since EC-6 was issued, ethylene dibromide has been put on the market in an 85-percent solution. Dilute to the 40-percent strength by mixing 5 gallons with 7 gallons of petroleum thinner. Apply this 40-percent solution at 10 gallons per acre as recommended in EC-6.

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